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We reserve the right to
edit or refuse
all contributions.

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Beth Falla
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Mo Khamouna
Vicki Perrie
Sky Seery
Dana Wade

A Conference to Remember

I recently returned from the **Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference** which was held at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Omaha. Wow! It was a whirlwind of sessions, keynote speakers, exploring exhibits and networking with librarians from all over the country. This group's focus on the truly small and really rural libraries, and the librarians that do what they can to keep the doors open, is really refreshing.

The theme of this year's conference was "Empowering Small Libraries." The sessions were selected because each and every one provided practical ideas that could be implemented by small libraries—programs, displays, collection development, fundraising, and more! Even if you were not able to attend in person, handouts from the entire conference can be found on the [ARSL website](#).

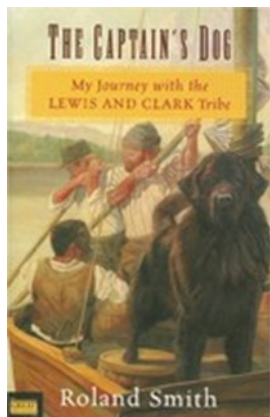
Since this national conference was being held in Nebraska, I had the unique opportunity to serve on the planning and local hospitality committees. One of my duties was to introduce all of the speakers scheduled for the Dakota Room. That means that I was able to attend 7 breakout sessions,

4 Keynote Speakers, and the Author Luncheon featuring Craig Johnson, the creator of the Longmire novels.

The first breakout session in my room was titled "The Power of One." Judy Calhoun and Anna Bates from Arkansas presented information about how to make running a one-person library easier and more efficient. Topics included time management, financial matters, technology issues and more. The presenters gave many common sense answers to everyday problems—train volunteers to perform tasks such as changing bulletin boards, cleaning, making copies, and shelving; search YouTube videos for topics you would like to learn more about; use the free catalogs you get for slogan and display ideas; and organize your picture books by color coding with different colored dots.

To get the most out of this conference, I decided to bring (at least) one idea from each session back to the System libraries. The idea from this session is an online game called "[Order in the Library.](#)" This is a fantastic free resource you can use to train your shelving volunteers. Watch for more great ARSL ideas on the RVLS website and email list.

New Book Club Kit



The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe, by Roland Smith

(Ages 10 and up) 15 copies

Born the runt of his litter and gambled away to a rusty old river man, the Newfoundland pup Seaman doesn't imagine his life will be marked by any kind of glory. But when he meets Captain Meriwether Lewis, Seaman finds himself on a path that will make history. Lewis is setting off on his landmark search for the Northwest Passage, and he takes Seaman along. Sharing the curiosity and spirit of his new master, the intrepid dog proves himself a valuable companion at every turn.

Part history, part science—and all adventure—this is the thrilling tale of America's greatest journey of discovery.

Hastings Middle School generously donated a number of Book Club Kits to Republican Valley Library System, including this exciting title.



A Celebration of Nebraska Books

October 26, 2013

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Join us to Celebrate:

O Pioneers!: 2012 One Book One Nebraska

Nebraska Book Award Winners

2014 One Book One Nebraska Announcement

2013 Jane Geske Award Presentations

Reception and Book Signings

Nebraska History Museum

15th & P Streets

Lincoln, NE

<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>



Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting
September 6, 2013 10:00 am
Teleconference

PRESENT: Dixie Codner, Jody Crocker, Annette Eisenhart, Jane Hilton, Tim Johnson, Robyn Johnston, Mo Khamouna, Vicki Perrie, Sky Seery, Dana Wade.

ABSENT: Beth Falla, Pat Hughes.

ALSO PRESENT: Denise Harders (System Administrator), Richard Miller (NLC Rep), Steve Batty (NLC Commissioner)

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mo Khamouna called the meeting to order at 10:03

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (6.7.13) Dana Wade moved to accept minutes as written, Annette Eisenhart seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT: 16% of the Fiscal year has been used. Things are pretty much on track, equipment is at 47%, but it will catch up since we will be making fewer copies. Annette Eisenhart made a motion to approve the financial report. Dixie Codner seconded. The financial report was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you's from Claudette Wielechowski, Rachel Hollenbeck, Cheryl Green, Barb Mohrman and Maggie Kramer for gifts, interviews, and purchasing a book club kit.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Denise has been busy! Internet Service Providers are pretty limited, called Internet Nebraska and the modem seems to be the problem (it's over 10 years old...wow!) so the options are to get a new modem non-wifi \$55 or wifi \$80/plus shipping. The board was supportive of getting a new modem. There will be 6 newsletters a year, 3 in paper & online and 3 online only. This will be a better service (new information more often) while saving money. (Yay!) There are scholarship dollars available. The RVLS car will be parked at the Landmark Center lot as Denise found a house 15 miles outside of Hastings. (Congrats on the move!)

Upcoming:

Sept 9-20 – Basic Skills – Customer Service

Sept 23-Oct 4 – Basic Skills – Readers Advisory

Sept 25-28 ARSL Conference - Omaha

Oct 4 – Youth for Excellence Grants deadline

Oct 9 – NLA/NSLA Pre-Conference – Breaking Down Barriers to Excellent Customer Service

Oct 10-11 NLA/NLSA Annual Conference, Kearney

Oct 14 – Columbus Day (observed) – RVLS Office Closed

Oct 21-Nov 1 – Basic Skills – Collection Management

Nov 1 – RVLS Board Meeting

Nov 4-15 – Basic Skills – Programming and Outreach

Nov 11 – Veteran's Day, Office closed

Nov 15 – State Advisory Council for Libraries

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The election will be moved to the next meeting in November. Tim Johnson made a motion to move the election and Jane Hilton seconded. The motion passed. We will meet in person in Imperial (tentatively).

OLD BUSINESS:

Corrected Employment Contracts: #4 changed to “contact” as opposed to “visit” on Denise’s contract. Kay is now in her 7th year in the system. Vickie would like the PTO limit added to the contracts. Denise will add the info and get them to Mo to sign.

Continued on page 4

Final 2013-2014 Budget: Denise made a change after the Annual meeting. Due to a miscalculation, the numbers are a little bit different for the final budget. Quotes were received for the different insurances. Switching the automobile policy to AllState as it has a much cheaper rate. Will be paid in September as opposed to beginning of June. Will save money. Workman's Comp insurance is also down due to staff salary corrections, it will again save money. Annual Meeting was in the black, where we made money. Budget was also decreased for Professional Periodicals. Two subscriptions were cut and two subscriptions will have only one copy instead of two. Jody Crocker moved to accept the 2013-2014 Budget. Jane Hilton seconded. The budget was accepted as presented.

Regional Systems Reorganization: Pat Hughes and Denise went to the Quarterly Meeting in Lexington, NE in August. Discussed the fact that money has been flat for a number of years. Looking for ways to save – possibly going to 5 systems from 6. Each System is very different and provides services differently. Pat prefers to go to 5 then if necessary go to 4. A Regional Library Systems Taskforce was created with 3 members from advisory council and 6 members representing the system. The Taskforce will contribute to restructuring and realigning the systems. Denise is on the Taskforce and needs input as the process goes on.

NEW BUSINESS:

RVLS Technology Plan: Once committees are established the Tech Committee will meet to work on the plan.

Standing Committees: Are as follows -

Planning/Executive/Budget:

Jody Crocker
Mo Khamouna
Vicki Perrie
Dana Wade
Denise Harders

Technology:

Annette Eisenhart
Pat Hughes
Tim Johnson
Sky Seery
Denise Harders

Continuing Education/Scholarships/Grants:

Dixie Codner
Beth Falla
Jane Hilton
Robyn Johnston
Denise Harders

Bulk Loan Reports: McCook (10 libraries) and Hastings (3 libraries) serve smaller libraries to circulate books. It was suggested that if McCook is going to service a larger amount of libraries, they should get more funds. Perhaps pro-rating it per the number of libraries served. The contract is already signed (July) for this year. It would not be able to go into effect until next year. Annette made a motion to realign the funds for Bulk Loan contract to pro-rated. Vickie seconded. The motion was accepted as presented.

2013 Audit: RVLS was audited in August. Everything balanced wonderfully and Gary (the auditor) appreciated Kay's efforts for the organization. The report will look differently due to the quarterly funding from the Commission coming into the account before the end of June. It will look like we are in the hole, but we're not. Rest assured.

NLC COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Steve has been enjoying vacation and had nothing to share at this time.

NLC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Sept. is Library Card Sign-Up Month (see ALA website), Banned Book Week is Sept 22-28th (again, ALA website). 464 challenges in 2012. The ARSL Conference is in Omaha Sept 25-28. Get a discount to attend the 2013 Internet Librarian Conference, contact Susan Knisely for the details. Check out NCompassLive programs every Wednesday from 10-11am CST. Basic Skills classes are also coming up, see the NLC website or contact Laura Johnson for info. Governor Heineman appointed Michael LaCroix to Nebraska Library Commission. Small town Public Library Grants available. 3rd year these grants are made, apply by Oct. 1. The NLC awards 21st Century Skills Scholarships to folks all over the state. Take the new Accreditation Guidelines for a test drive.

Dixie made a motion, Dana seconded. The meeting was adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 1, 2013 in Imperial (again, tentatively).

Letters About Literature

Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters about Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission, and locally supported by Houchen Bindery Ltd.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2014. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to receive a \$1,000 cash award. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$200 cash award, to be announced in May 2014.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and entry forms, at

www.read.gov/letters. Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Submissions from Grades 9-12 must be postmarked by December 10, 2013. Submissions from Grades 4-8 must be postmarked by January 10, 2014.

Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. For more information contact [Mary Jo Ryan](#), 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.



RVLS NEWS



Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute was held August 5-9, 2013, at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. RVLS members attending the Institute were Robyn Johnston, Maywood Public School, and Sky Seery, Mid-Plains Community College—North Platte Campus.

After a long, and sometimes exhausting, week, Robyn and Sky learned a lot about their own leadership styles.



More Information, More Often

The RVLS Board has approved a plan to provide System Members with six *ValleyTalk* newsletters per year. In the past we published four newsletters in print format. In order to provide better service, we are going to alternate between print and online newsletters. Three will be in print and three will be posted to the RVLS website and also distributed through the RVLS email list. To make sure you don't miss out on vital information, sign up for the RVLS email list on the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage.



We extend a very warm welcome to these new RVLS librarians:

- Jacqueline Minnis, Axtell Public Library
- Patrick Ropers, Elwood Public School
- Kim Sullivan, Hayes Center Public Schools
- Kasey Grund, Loomis Public Schools
- Julie Howard, Palisade Public Library
- Nancy Sherman, Sutton Public Library

Mark Your Calendar



- Oct. 9** Preconference Program—Breaking Down Barriers to Excellent Customer Service
- Oct. 10-1** NLA/NSLA Annual Conference, Kearney
- Oct. 14** Columbus Day Holiday—RVLS Office Closed
- Oct. 21–Nov 1** Basic Skills—Collection Management
- Nov. 4-15** Basic Skills—Programming and Outreach
- Nov. 13** ESU 11, Holdrege—School Librarian Workshop
- Nov. 14** Author Event for Library Directors and Trustees—Lunch with David Vinjamuri at the Millard Branch (see page 14)
- Nov. 15** State Advisory Council for Libraries Meeting
- Nov. 28-29** Thanksgiving Holiday—RVLS Office Closed
- Dec. 2-13** Basic Skills—Library Governance
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Holiday—RVLS Office closed in the afternoon
- Dec. 25** Christmas Holiday—RVLS Office Closed

Disc Cleaning and Repair

- From July 1, 2013, thru June 30, 2014, each RVLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings.
- If you have more than 10 discs that need fixing, you may send them to us and we will repair them and send them back with an invoice for 50 cents per disc.
- If you come to the RVLS Office in Hastings and pick up the repaired discs, the charge is 35 cents per disc.



A similar service at a retail video outlet costs more than \$5.00 per disc!

The RTI ECO Auto-Smart is amazing! It will repair almost all scratches, no matter how deep. However, if the disc is cracked, we cannot fix it.



On the Bookshelf

- **Still Foolin' 'Em** by Billy Crystal
- **True Love** by Jude Deveraux
- **The Way West** by A.B. Guthrie, Jr.
- **Fly Away** by Kristin Hannah
- **Beautiful Day** by Elin Hilderbrand
- **Tell Me** by Lisa Jackson
- **Joyland** by Stephen King
- **Comstock** Lode by Louis Amour
- **My Story, My Song** by Lucimarian Roberts (MP-3)
- **Divergent** by Veronica Roth
- **The Silver Star** by Jeannette Walls
- **Frozen in Time** by Mitchell Zuckoff
- **All I want for Christmas** by Nora Roberts
- **Exclusive** by Fern Michaels
- **Final Justice** by Fern Michaels
- **Home Free** by Fern Michaels
- **The Scoop** by Fern Michaels

**Hastings Memorial
Library in Grant
donated these
audiobooks to the
RVLS Collection**

2013 –2014 RVLS Board Meetings

Friday, November 1, 2013
Lied Imperial Public Library

Friday, January 3, 2014
Telephone Conference Call

Friday, March 7, 2014
Elwood Public Library—Elwood

Friday, June 6, 2014—Annual Meeting
Location to be determined



Sharing the WorldShare ILL Experience

(World Share Interlibrary Loan by Libby Munsell, Kilgore Memorial Library, York)

You have probably noticed the alert message as you work with Interlibrary Loans, indicating that the WorldCat website that we have all become accustomed to is changing to OCLC WorldShare. I must admit, when I was told about the switch I was nervous to begin using a new website, mostly because I was still learning how to use WorldCat since it was my first year working with ILL. However, I was eager to jump into WorldShare because I knew that eventually, the switch would be inevitable.

I began my experience by participating in OCLC's basic training sessions that taught me the process of borrowing and lending on the WorldShare site. While WorldShare has many different features that cater to library needs, I found that learning how to lend and borrow were the main necessities; I could learn the details as I worked through ILL requests. It took a couple weeks for me to stop using the WorldCat site alongside the WorldShare site to compare the two and get used to the appearance of borrowing and lending with the new service. I am pleased with WorldShare and now find it difficult to revert back to WorldCat! Overall, WorldShare provides a modern and sensible display with user-friendly features to make working with ILL a smooth process.

After using WorldShare for my daily ILL activities, I found it to be easy to navigate and understand. The home page has quick links that automatically direct your attention to current requests and problems that need to be solved. In addition, the home page organizes the links that are most likely to be used in one place, rather than all around the page, demonstrating the site's ease of use. Request links that were one or two characters long on FirstSearch are now a full word or a button, making it easier to click to a different part of the site to find what I need. All the main activities using Worldshare are buttons lined up on the left side of the screen, subdividing into more specific actions with a click of the mouse. Searches for items outside of your library, previous requests that you made, and requests from other libraries stay organized in their own respective sections. The organization makes it easier to notice new requests and to reference older request records.

When I am working with computers, I tend to have a variety of different tabs and pages open at one time. One feature of WorldShare that I really enjoy is that it is possible to have different records open at once and reference them without closing them. For example, I can search for a book that our patron requests and also check to see if a different book has been shipped to us yet without closing the first search. I can do multiple searches and click back and forth between them, never losing my place in case I am interrupted with another ILL task.

WorldShare does a great job of providing relevant information for easy referencing. When searching to borrow an item, images appear with the list of results as well as consistent images that indicate the type of media, such as a print book or an audio book. When looking at the list of materials that our library has out to other libraries, I can see the ID number for the record, the title, the media type, the borrower's symbol, and the date it was requested before I even open the record. When I am requesting a book from a variety of lenders, before I send the request I can see the cost of loaning the material for each library listed next to the library's name. Information is organized in a way that is useful for quick referencing.

While I have not put all of WorldShare's features to use, I have been happy with its service day-to-day and have not had any major problems. It can sometimes be overwhelming to change something that you use every day, but it is possible to learn new things to make a more efficient work environment. OCLC has instructor-led training sessions for those who haven't switched to the new service and are eager to learn more. They also have recorded training sessions if you cannot participate in a live session. In fact, OCLC has added more features to WorldShare since I began using it in December 2012, some of which I plan on learning to use by either going to training sessions or exploring it on my own. Since full migration to WordShare happens this December, I suggest easing into the switch while you have time so you can learn by comparison, attend virtual training sessions, and explore. Good luck to you as you make the switch!



(Affordable Care Act by Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission)

Because of the Affordable Care Act, the 87% of Nebraskans who have insurance have more choices and stronger coverage than ever before. And for the 13% of Nebraskans who don't have insurance, or Nebraska families and small businesses who buy their coverage but aren't happy with it, a new day is just around the corner.

Soon, the new online Health Insurance Marketplace will provide families and small businesses who currently don't have insurance, or are looking for a better deal, a new way to find health coverage that fits their needs and their budgets.

Open enrollment in the Marketplace runs from October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014, with coverage starting as soon as January 1, 2014.

HOW CAN WE HELP? : THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE, AND THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

As almost everyone is aware, the next phase of the Affordable Care Act, and more specifically the Healthcare Marketplace Open Enrollment, goes into effect October 1st of this year. The Nebraska Library Commission has been pulling together resources to aid libraries and librarians in guiding patrons to the information they will need for Open Enrollment. The list of questions and resources is growing, as the Commission continues to talk to the various departments and agencies that oversee the ACA process here in Nebraska. To get you started, here are a few of the most important websites to become familiar with.

<https://www.healthcare.gov/> -- The Federally run Health Insurance Marketplace for Nebraska

[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services FAQs](#) – The top Health Insurance Marketplace questions.

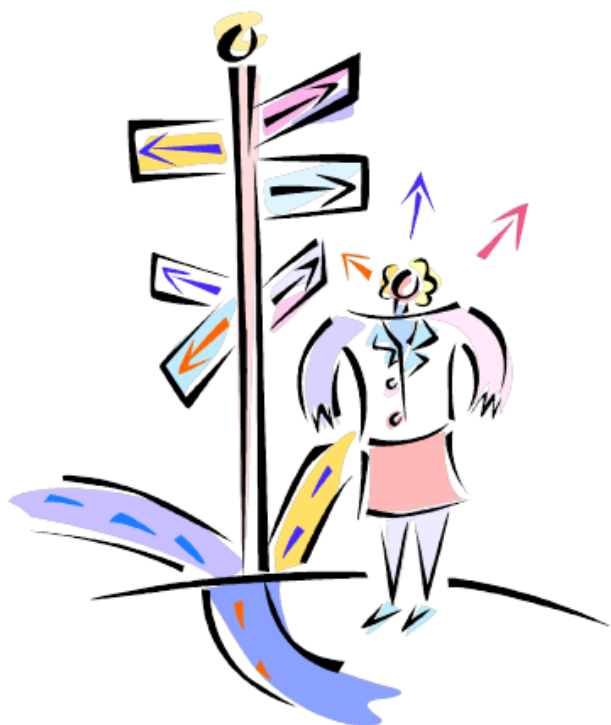
[Nebraska Department of Insurance ACA](#) – Information for consumers, health care providers, agents and navigators, companies, and small businesses.

<http://marketplace.cms.gov/> -- Under "Get Official Resources": publications, articles, and brochures for professionals, librarians included.

<http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/>

[Libraries and Health Insurance Preparing for October 1.html](#) -- WebJunction recently hosted a webinar on Libraries & Health Insurance: Preparing for October 1

These are just a few of the resources available, so stay tuned to the Nebraska Library Commission webpage for updates. If you have any questions, please call or email Mary Sauers at 800-307-2665 or mary.sauers@nebraska.gov.



Websites, Games, and Apps, Oh My!! Help for Busy Teachers

Graphite™ is a free service from nonprofit [Common Sense Media](http://www.common-sense-media.org) designed to help preK-12 educators discover, use, and share the best apps, games, websites, and digital curricula for their students by providing unbiased, rigorous ratings and practical insights from our active community of teachers.

Graphite was built for teachers by teachers. Go to <http://www.graphite.org> to cut through the clutter of online resources.

Website Recommended by Kathy Schultz, Children's Librarian, Hastings Public Library.



Ellison on the Move

Here's the schedule for the Ellison, if you want on the schedule please contact us, or if it is near you, perhaps you could work out something with your neighbor.

Oct. 1, 1013—Sutton Public Schools

Nov. 1, 2013—Southern Valley Elementary, Oxford

Dec. 1, 2013—Culbertson Public Library

Jan 1, 2014—Wilcox-Hildreth School, Wilcox

Feb. 1, 2014—Silver Lake Schools, Bladen

June 1, 2013—Dundy County Library, Benkelman

The Ellison is available in March, April and May 2014.

If you would like to schedule a time for your library to use the Ellison.

Please email us at:

rvlsasst@inebraska.com or
rvlsadmin@inebraska.com



21st Century Librarian Scholarships

Libraries in the 21st century need librarians with 21st century skills—and this scholarship program will help you develop those skills. Not only does this program help with tuition, fees and class-related materials, it will support you in your education and professional development with funds that may be used to purchase

laptop computers, attend national professional conferences, and join professional associations. This dynamic program includes enhanced learning opportunities such as the 21st Century Skills Seminar, webinars, face-to-face training, and online social networking. If you are a Nebraska resident pursuing an education in library science, you are eligible to apply.

Scholarships are available at the associate and bachelor's levels, up to \$3,500, depending on course of study, and stipends of up to an additional \$2,000 may be awarded. The next deadline for scholarship applications is **November 1, 2013**, and Letters of Recommendation must be postmarked by **October 22, 2013**. Go to <http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/Scholarships.asp> for more information.

RVLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to \$100.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.

Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year

All member libraries eligible

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Other information:



Send your request to:

Republican Valley Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street Suite # 233
Hastings, NE 68901



National Medal for Your Library

Nominate Your Library For the National Medal for Museum and Library Service!



Nomination Deadline: October 15, 2013

Washington, DC—The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is seeking nominations for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for exemplary museum and library community service. The medal winners will be the institutions that make the most extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.

What do you win? Any individual may nominate a library in the United States and its territories for the National Medal and all types of libraries, including public, school, academic, research, and archival, are eligible to receive this honor. Recipient institutions receive the National Medal at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C., and a \$5,000 award in recognition of their extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions. After the ceremony, StoryCorps—a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans—visits each institution to provide an opportunity for community members to share the stories of their lives. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

For more information and to access the nomination form, please go to: www.ims.gov/medals or contact Michele Farrell, Senior Library Program Officer, 202-653-4656, mfarrell@ims.gov

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

Author Event—David Vinjamuri

How Will Libraries Flourish in the Age of eBooks?

Forbes Columnist and NYU Marketing Professor David Vinjamuri presents a program on the future for libraries. Vinjamuri makes a compelling case for the centrality of libraries for reading overall, and why eBooks pose such a complex challenge. Drawing on his deep marketing skills as an advisor to Fortune 500 companies like American Express and Starwood Hotels, as well as the U.S. Navy and Army Reserve, Vinjamuri provides a fresh perspective on the opportunities and challenges for libraries. He also speaks frankly about the viewpoint of publishers and how libraries can better use their collective strength to change the dynamic with the largest publishers.

This luncheon speaker will be of special interest to public library directors and board members. Lunch will be included at no charge to participants. Advance registration is much appreciated. This free program will be held on Thursday, November 14 at Millard Branch, Omaha Public Library with lunch at noon and the talk and book-signing from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

This event was made possible, in part, by a 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Go to the Nebraska Library Commission's Calendar of Events to register.

Seeryus Mama

Sky Seery, RVLS Board Member, is featured in the October issue of *NET Now*, the magazine for members of the NET Foundation for Television and Radio. Sky is a “mom blogger” that started her blog in 2006. Originally she wanted to keep in touch with family and friends, but now her site includes recipes, crafts, parenting tips, product reviews and giveaways for her 3,000 readers. Sky connects with other moms who are balancing work, life and home.

To say that Sky is very busy, is an understatement. In addition to being the Secretary for the RVLS Board, she works full time in the library at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, takes

online classes towards a degree in management each semester, and volunteers in her community. Add all this to her roles as a wife and mother, and it is **amazing** that Sky gets everything done. Sky intends to earn a Master's Degree in Library Science, as well.

Sky and her family enjoy watching NET Television and listening to NET Radio. She loves the quality programming and lack of advertising. Sky is currently promoting the new PBS Kids series, *Peg + Cat* which premieres Monday, October 7, 2013.

Enjoy Sky's blog at seeryusmama.com.

Rogers, Kim. "Seeryus Mama is Serious About NET Television and NET Radio." NET Now, October 2013, no. 38, page 12.

Nebraska Library Commission Awards 40+ ARSL Conference Scholarships

Nebraska public librarians had a terrific opportunity to attend a national professional conference this Fall—right in their own backyard! The Nebraska Library Commission offered grants to Nebraska public library staffers to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference, September 25-28 in Omaha.

Eight RVLS librarians received C.E. & Training Grants from the Nebraska Library Commission to attend this conference.

- Keri Anderson, Alma
- Judy Grandstaff, Blue Hill
- Cindee Wagner, Culbertson
- Robin Quinn, Grant
- Sharon Steenbarger, Harvard
- Terri Johnson, North Platte
- Terri Eberly, Red Cloud
- Vicki Perrie, Superior



Pronouncing Author Names



Most librarians begin a storytime by reading the book's title and its author. But what if the author's name is a bit tricky? How do you pronounce Benjamin Sáenz? Jon Scieszka? Geraldine McCaughrean?

At <http://www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi>, a free site from TeachingBooks.net, the authors pronounce their own names and tell a story about it. Even if you can pronounce the name, it is fun to play the audio anyway to hear the author's voice and, sometimes, humor.

Republican Valley Library System
2727 West 2nd Street St. # 233
Hastings, NE 68901-4684



Serving Counties:

Adams
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Clay
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Furnas
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Harlan
Hayes
Hitchcock
Kearney
Lincoln
Logan
McPherson
Nuckolls
Perkins
Phelps
Red Willow
Webster

If we didn't have libraries, many
people thirsty for knowledge would
dehydrate.

~Megan Jo Tetrick